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INFLECT SEVERE PENALTIES FOR "SABOTAGE" CONVICTIONS

DEATH SENTENCE FOR MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIAL -- Zycie Warszawy, No 106, 18 Apr 50

The District Military Court in Warsaw reviewed the case of three former officials of the Ministry of Health: Marian Daszkiewicz, former manager of the Department of Production and Sales in the Pharmacy Department and former director of the United Public Pharmacies; Zygmunt Konieczny, former director of the Office of Supply in the Pharmacy Department; and Alfred Wellenger, former General Manager of the Sales Office of Pharmaceuticals.

The criminal acts of the accused consisted of organized sabotage in the production and distribution of pharmaceuticals. The accused hampered the development of the state pharmaceutical industry through their failure to distribute medical supplies. Some of the state factories were forced to hold up production because their warehouses were full. The defendants imported large quantities of nonessential medicines and raw materials, or those produced domestically in sufficient quantities.

The defendants also spread false rumors about the products of the state industry. They held up approval of state manufactured pharmaceuticals and favored pharmaceutical producers with whom they were associated as silent partners. Private firms were also allowed to sell imitations of state-manufactured products. They also accepted bribes from foreign exporters.

The court found the defendants guilty and sentenced Daszkiewicz to death, Konieczny to 15 years, and Wellenger to 10 years in prison.

CONVICT SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY PERSONNEL -- Rzeczpospolita, No 82, 23 Mar 50

The Szczecin Appellate Court sentenced Kazimierz Chrabaszczewicz, former director of the local social security agency, to 10 years' imprisonment, vice-director Zenobiusz Strzesniewski to 5 years, Roman Mitkiewicz, an x-ray specialist, to 4 years and 6 months, Wincenty Kozlowski, manager of the agency's pharmacy, to 3 years, and Jan Heigl, an employee, to 1 year and 6 months' imprisonment.

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The first two defendants were charged with neglecting to set up proper medical facilities of the agency in 15 powiats of Szczecin Wojewodztwo. For instance, the agency's infirmaries in Szczecin were housed in primitive premises at a time when it had a new building at its disposal.

The two executives, with the complicity of the agency's x-ray specialist, Mitkiewicz, acquired defective medical equipment for 5 million zlotys. Kozlowski, manager of the agency's pharmacy, was charged with lending assistance to the chief defendants in procuring medicines for 6,500,000 zlotys which they resold at a profit. Employee Jan Hiegel was sentenced for appropriating agency funds.

PUNISH BUYERS AND SELLERS OF ALLOCATED MATERIALS -- Trybuna Ludu, No 80, 21 Mar 50

The Special Court of Appeals in Poznan in emergency session convicted officials of the Main Iron Warehouse and the Central Marketing Office for Iron and Steel in Poznan of selling allocated tin plate, sheet iron, and zinc sheets to private buyers without authorization. The accused accepted bribes amounting to several thousand zlotys in each case.

The court sentenced Marian Borowicz, director of the Main Iron Warehouse and of the Central Marketing Office of Iron and Steel in Poznan to 6 years in prison, Wacław Cerbe, former assistant director of the establishment, to 9 years, and Roman Zalisz, the sales manager, to 12 years.

The private purchasers of the allocated metallurgical items were also tried. Czesław Pyzik was found guilty and sentenced to 4 years, Władysław Ostas to 5 years, and Romuald Steinborn to 4 years in prison.

Following this, the court also passed sentence on codefendants who were found guilty by the regular court as follows: Wacław Zietkiewicz, 6 months, Witold Kus, 1 year; and Edmund Kuleczki, 2 years in prison.

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